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Stable relations between various research organizations will be worth while only if some mutual benefits can accrue. These can be brought about by an exchange or interchange of "commodities," such as—

- (a) Subjects for research.
- (b) Special facilities for extraordinary conditions, such as extreme pressures, extremes of temperatures, etc.
- (c) Special pieces of expensive apparatus.
- (d) Helpful ideas on research already in progress.
- (e) Candidates for employment.

This presupposes a freedom from the secrecy which still surrounds the industrial research of certain organizations. Undue secrecy is unnecessary and unwise, but it is only in those cases where publicity is compatible with industrial progress that full cooperation between the universities and the industries can be effected.

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF INVESTIGATIONAL ACTIVITIES

This study would be distinctly worth while, but before the initiation of such a movement there must first be established more mutual confidence than now exists. A comparative study of this kind would be very difficult and would necessitate the expenditure of much time. Probably such information could be secured by obtaining the reports regarding the industrial research laboratories in operation, and there is no reason why a suitable questionnaire could not be prepared and distributed, in order to obtain information regarding research conditions and comparative data relating to the organizations maintaining laboratories.

It would be very useful indeed to have available a yearbook pertaining to research laboratories, with the following lines of information: institutions, organizations or concerns supporting them, approximate purpose of laboratory, divisions of science represented therein, manufacturing facilities directly associated therewith, approximate annual expenditure for maintenance of research, number of and particulars relating to the training of the mem-

bers of the investigatory staff, and, finally, a list of the scientific publications for the past year. Such a book might also advantageously include mention of the special equipment of the laboratories unlikely to be possessed by every similar institution.

The National Research Council, through its committee on research in educational institutions, could well arrange to have some one whose sole duty it was to coordinate the work in university laboratories with reference to general or national welfare. While any attempt which may be made by a national society or association to secure cooperation between industrial and institutional laboratories will invariably encounter the difficulty of invested interests, an organization with governmental support might accomplish much fruitful research work through institutions of learning and in such a way that this would be of material benefit to the institutions concerned, as well as to the nation.

R. F. BACON,
Chairman,
C. E. K. MEES,
W. H. WALKER,
M. C. WHITAKER,
W. R. WHITNEY

PITTSBURGH, PA.,
December 15, 1916

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS IN FRANCE

GOVERNOR WHITMAN, of New York, has granted Dr. Hermann M. Biggs, state health commissioner, leave of absence to go to France, at the request of the Rockefeller Foundation, to conduct an organized campaign to combat the spread of tuberculosis among noncombatants. In a letter to Governor Whitman, Mr. Jerome D. Greene, secretary of the foundation, wrote:

* For some time past our representatives in France have been much impressed by the need of effective measures for the relief and control of tuberculosis. A number of voluntary American agencies in France have exerted themselves with great zeal to arouse the sympathy of the American public and to do what could be done to provide hospital care for the more urgent cases that have

come under observation. A committee of French citizens has also been organized in close cooperation with the government, and appeals have been made to us on behalf of the work undertaken by this committee.

In response to the appeals we have received, our representatives have made a careful preliminary study of the situation, and the trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation have been so impressed with the gravity of the need that they have decided to take steps to ascertain definitely the lines along which American sympathy and generosity can be made most effective. With this end in view, they have sought to find the man who in all the country was best qualified both as a physician and as a public health administrator to study the situation in France and to determine the lines along which help could best be given.

They have had no difficulty in making up their minds that Dr. Herman M. Biggs was the man whose character and attainments best fulfilled the requirements of the case. They realized that it would be asking a great deal of Dr. Biggs to make the sacrifice involved in a visit to France, and that the state of New York had the first claim on his services. They felt, however, that if it should be the happy result of Dr. Biggs's going to France that the benefits of his long and wonderfully fruitful service in New York could be availed of in the organization of the campaign in that country, the effect in terms of human welfare would be so large and far-reaching as to constitute a very strong claim both on his public spirit and upon the generosity of the state of New York.

During Dr. Biggs's absence Dr. Linsly R. Williams, deputy commissioner, will be acting commissioner; Dr. Matthias Nicoll, Jr., now secretary of the board, will be acting deputy commissioner, and Dr. John A. Smith, at present sanitary supervisor, will act as secretary.

THE NATIONAL PARKS CONFERENCE

UNDER the auspices of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior there was held in the auditorium of the New National Museum, Washington, D. C., on January 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1917, a National Parks Conference, at which many important papers and lectures were presented. The program included:

Our National Parks: Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior; Senator Reed Smoot, of

Utah; Representative Scott Ferris, of Oklahoma; Representative Irvine L. Lenroot, of Wisconsin; Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture; Enos Mills.

Canadian National Parks: J. B. Harkin, commissioner of Dominion Parks, department of the interior, Canada.

The Public and the National Parks: Huston Thompson, Jr., assistant attorney general.

University Classes in the National Parks: Professor E. M. Lehnerts, of the University of Minnesota.

Public Schools and the National Parks: Philander P. Claxton, U. S. Commissioner of Education.

National Parks as a Scientific Asset: Dr. Charles D. Walcott, secretary, Smithsonian Institution.

Teaching by Picture: Gilbert H. Grosvenor, editor, *National Geographic Magazine*.

The Painter and the National Parks: William H. Holmes, head curator, National Gallery of Art.

The Photographer and the National Parks: Fred H. Kiser.

National Forests and National Parks in Wild Life Conservation: Henry S. Graves, forester and chief, Forest Service.

The Yellowstone Elk Herds: E. W. Nelson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey.

Future of the Antelope: E. Lester Jones, superintendent, Coast and Geodetic Survey.

National Monuments as Wild Animal Sanctuaries: T. S. Palmer, assistant in charge of Game Preservation, Bureau of Biological Survey.

Colossus of Canyons: Representative Simeon D. Fess, of Ohio.

The Survey's Contribution to the National Park Movement: Dr. George Otis Smith, director, U. S. Geological Survey.

The Problem of the Greater Sequoia: Representative Frederick H. Gillett, of Massachusetts.

Perhaps Our Greatest National Park: Enos Mills.

The Tehipite Valley and Kings Canyon: Robert Sterling Yard.

The Top of America—Mount Whitney: Emerson Hough.

A FRENCH NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

THE question of national laboratories of scientific research has been brought forward recently in France. In the *Comptes rendus* of the Academy of Sciences for November 13, as summarized in *Nature*, is a preliminary